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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /082 W
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R 072114Z JUL 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2448
INFO US DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1926

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR CU
SUBJ: CUBANS PROPOSE VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGES

1. AT CONCLUSION OF USINT OFFICER MEETING WITH CUBAN SUGAR CANE AND SWINE BREEDING EXPERTS (REPORTED SEPARATELY), JULY 5, ROBERTO CEDENO, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, STATED THAT MINISTRY HIERARCHY HAS STUDIED SEVERAL MATTERS RAISED IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH USINT AND VISITING CODELS. THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD IN THESE AREAS, CEDENO SAID, AND WISHES TO KNOW USDA DEFINITIVE REACTIONS.

2. PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE. ON GENERAL PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE THEME PREVIOUSLY RAISED BY USPNT (77 STATE 276764), CEDENO SAID THAT TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CUBAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS PREPARED TOCONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH USDA LIBRARY FOR EXCHANGE OF RESPECTIVE PUBLICATIONS. CEDENO SAID THAT, IN COMING WEEKS, LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND SAMPLES WILL BE PROVIDED TO USINT. CEDENO ASKED WHETHER USDA IS INTERESTED IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE. IF SO, WHAT USDA PUBLICATIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED? ALSO, IF USDA IS INTERESTED, WHAT LEVEL OF FORMALIZATION WOULD EXCHANGE HAVE - I.E., WOULD IT BEGIN AS A SIGNED AGREEMENT OR SIMPLY AN EXCHANGE OF
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NOTES?

3. EXCHANGE OF "GENETIC SAMPLES", ON THIS MATTER WHICH COMPREHENDS CASTRO'S SUGGESTION (77 HAVANA 761) FOR EXCHANGE OF CITRUS ROOT STOCKS, AVOCADO BULBS AND SUGAR CANE VARIETIES (BUT MAY GO BEYOND), CEDENO SAID THAT CUBANS CONTINUED TO BE INTERESTED. USINT OFFICER (PER STATE 38294) STATED THAT

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PREVIOUS CUBANSUGGESTION HAD EVOKED LITTLE INTEREST ON PART
OF US END-USERS. CEDENO THEN ASKED WHETHER THIS LACK OF
INTEREST EXTENDS ONLY TO SUGAR AND CITRUS SPHERES.

4. TECHNICAL VISITS. CEDENO ASKED WHAT US POSTURE IS ON
PERMISSIBILITY OF VISITS BY CUBAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS
AND SCIENTISTS TO US. USINT OFFICER, POINTING TO LEGAL
CONSTRAINTS ON US AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO CUBA AND DEVELOP-
MENT OF FOREIGN SUGAR AND CITRUS INDUSTRIES, SAID THAT PRE-
SUMABLY ATTITUDE, INTER ALIA, WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER VISIT
IS TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FACILITY AND ON WHETHER CUBANS COULD
FINANCE VISIT FROM THEIR OWN OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FUNDS. CEDENO SAID CUBANS ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING PRECISELY
WHERE AND IN WHAT AGRICULTURAL SUBJECT FIELDS USDA WOULD OR WOULD
NOT FIND CUBAN VISITS WELCOME.
(COMENT: CUBANS APPARENTLY HOPE THAT US WILL FIND IT
POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN FIELDS,
SUCH AS LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY BREEDING, THAT ARE LESS
SENSITIVE (THAN SUGAR AND CITRUS) TO US DOMESTIC PRODUCERS. THEY
ALSO APPARENTLY WISH TO PROBE LIMITS OF US LEGAL STRICTURES ON
AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO CUBA.)

5. COMMENT: WE READ CEDENO'S APPROACH AS PART OF CURRENT
CUBAN EFFORT TO ENHANCE BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH US TO
OFFSET DAMAGING EFFECT OF US-CUBAN TENSION OVER AFRICA.
SITUATION IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD IS, OF COURSE, COMPLICATED
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BY US DOMESTIC LEGISLATION. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESPONDING
TO CEDENO'S PROPOSALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

--PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE. PUBLICATIONS HAVE EXEMPTED STATUS
UNDER US EMBARGO. SINCE CUBANS COULD OBTAIN OUR PUBLICATIONS
FROM GPO IN ANY EVENT, WE CAN ONLY GAIN FROM ARRANGEMENT.
WE SUGGEST ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL, TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH
EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

--EXCHANGE OF "GENETIC SAMPLES". WE RECOMMEND THAT END-USER
INTEREST AGAIN BE SURVEYED ON GAMUT OF FLORA AND FAUNA
AVAILABLE IN CUBA.
--TECHNICAL VISITS. OUR PRESENT "CASE-BY-CASE" POSTURE
SHOULD PRESUMABLY BE MAINTAINED. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, HOWEVER,
TO GIVE CUBANS A GENERAL BRIEFING ON LEGISLATION IN FORCE
IN US THAT AFFECTS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH CUBA DIRECTLY
OR INDIRECTLY. ALSO, IT MIGHT BE WORTH MAKING A JUDGEMENT
WHETHER CURRENT LEGISLATION LIMITS POSSIBILITY FOR SIMPLE
RECEIPT (AS OPPOSED TO FINANCING) OF VISITS OF CUBAN
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS TO USDA FACILITIES.
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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